



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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JLARC Study Priorities Subcommittee Meeting – Minutes

October 14, 2014

Attending

JLARC Members:

Senator John C. Watkins, Subcommittee Chairman; Delegate M. Kirkland Cox, Delegate John M. O'Bannon, and Delegate Lionell Spruill.

JLARC Staff:

Hal Greer, Director; Nathalie Molliet-Ribet, Senior Associate Director; Justin Brown, Associate Director; Kimberly Sarte, Assistant Director; Jamie Bitz; Borna Kazerooni, Paula Lambert.

Others:

Katie Webb (Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association); Tripp Penn (Lindl Corporation); John Aulbach (Virginia Department of Health).

The subcommittee meeting began at approximately 9:30 a.m. Senator Watkins provided the subcommittee members with a brief overview of the meeting agenda and recognized Hal Greer, JLARC staff Director who introduced Nathalie Molliet-Ribet. Ms. Molliet-Ribet provided the subcommittee members with an overview of the scoping document for a JLARC review of Virginia's Medicaid program. Delegate Spruill asked what is meant by insufficient incentives and what is wrong with the process in place now for providing incentives to health care providers. Ms. Molliet-Ribet stated that this is something that could be addressed by the study. Senator Watkins noted that a Medicaid-funded transportation services study will be done separately but is being delayed because of a new contract being implemented by DMAS. Delegate O'Bannon noted that he informed Delegate Albo about the timing of this separate study. Mr. Greer noted that this study is not scheduled to begin until 2015. Senator Watkins asked for JLARC staff recommendations regarding the cost alternatives for completing the study. Mr. Greer noted that the total estimated cost of contracting out part of the study is \$1.2 million. Senator Watkins stated that most of the recommendations in the prior two JLARC reports on Medicaid have not yet been implemented (2010 Interim Report: Fraud and Error in Virginia's Medicaid Program and 2011 Final Report: Mitigating the Risk of Improper Payments in the Virginia Medicaid Program). Delegate O'Bannon stated that he supports a Medicaid study because not all areas have been looked at, such as long-term care and administrative overhead costs for the Medicaid program, and he would like to know this information. Delegate Cox stated that he

is supportive of the study as well because Medicaid is 21 percent of the budget and a study would provide a holistic view and a drill down of the program's administrative overhead costs, as well as other states' programs. Senator Watkins asked whether there is a program to consolidate benefits currently in place. Ms. Molliet-Ribet noted that she wasn't sure. Senator Watkins noted that the study should look at what is currently required but has not been fully implemented, as well as the effect of any changes that may have occurred. Delegate Cox noted that the study could look at which recommendations have been implemented from prior JLARC reports. Senator Watkins stated that the subcommittee does not need to recommend whether it is for or against the Medicaid study, but can bring the potential study to the full Commission.

Following Ms. Molliet-Ribet's remarks, Mr. Jamie Bitz provided the subcommittee members with an overview of the scoping document for a JLARC review of water resource management and planning in Virginia. Senator Watkins asked if the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) agreed with the scope of the study. Mr. Bitz indicated that they did not ask DEQ to review the scoping document, but that DEQ staff did not express any issues with the potential study. Delegate O'Bannon noted that this study would be important in the long run, as 90 percent of water that is withdrawn is not subject to permit requirements. Senator Watkins noted that there is some variation at the federal and state levels regarding the classification of waters. Mr. Bitz noted that a study would look at this as well. Senator Watkins also noted that the potential study should also look at water retention in quarries and the contractual arrangement between the state and federal government regarding property ownership. Delegate Cox stated that DEQ and the State Water Control Board have done a fair amount of research on water resource management and planning.

Following Mr. Bitz's comments, Senator Watkins requested a motion to move the two potential studies to the full Commission without a recommendation. Delegate O'Bannon made a motion, which was seconded by Delegate Cox, and approved by all members of the subcommittee. Lastly, Mr. Greer stated that JLARC staff would have five studies for 2015 if the Commission decides to approve these two additional studies now.

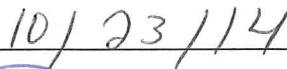
There being no further business, the subcommittee rose at 9:55 a.m.

Approved by: _____

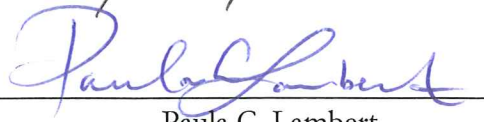


Hal E. Greer, Director

Date: _____



Prepared by: _____



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